

## Secretary Fox on Libraries

Life-long educator and public television executive Virginia G. Fox currently serves as Education Secretary in Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher's administration. Secretary Fox, who retired from Kentucky Educational Television (KET) as executive director and CEO in 2002, was Governor Fletcher's first cabinet appointment soon after his election in the fall of 2003.



Fox, born in 1939 in Campbellsville, Kentucky, grew up in Fleming County, Kentucky and earned her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. She is married to attorney Victor Fox and currently lives in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Secretary Fox recently took time to answer some questions about Kentucky libraries.

### **Has your library background assisted you in decision-making throughout your career?**

Absolutely, yes. For every human interest, there are literally limitless resources available in any library.

### **How is the mission and scope of KDLA making the agency viable to Kentuckians and their needs?**

KDLA is the keeper of all Kentucky's records. Kentucky has such a rich heritage and KDLA keeps that alive for future generations through oral histories, archives, genealogical records and public records.

Libraries are the gateway to the Internet for citizens who have no computers in their homes and it makes learning accessible for persons of all ages and in every community, i.e., people with disabilities, remote rural, elderly, or persons without the means to acquire books. Bookmobiles even broaden that further. But, at the end of the day, the most critical function any agency can have is to promote and support literacy and that is one of the most exciting functions of KDLA.

### **How do you see public libraries assisting Kentuckians in living, learning, and working in the 21st century?**

The public libraries partner with so many agencies - they are the ideal partners. They are a source of intellectual stimulation. They are a gateway to the Internet. The most important function is assembling, categorizing and making accessible and available the flood of information on every imaginable topic. As knowledge increases at an amazing rate, the agency that assembles it and organizes it and makes it user friendly is invaluable.

In an era of hoaxes, spam and disinformation, libraries are an important source of research and bibliographic sources of information you can trust.

It's also exciting to see KDLA's interest and activity in preserving digital images and audiovisual material. This kind of forward thinking will continue to make libraries important resources in the future.

**What do you see as the greatest challenges facing libraries in the 21st century?**

I fear that libraries are very much like other things that are so available. I fear that we may take them for granted and fall into apathy, thinking that they will always be there for us. In an age where information is king, the skills of librarians in assembling, organizing and categorizing information are invaluable assets in many high-paying for-profit industries. It is going to be very hard to keep our people because their skills are in such high demand by corporations and businesses.

## Local Tax Rates

The current information available shows that the majority of Kentucky libraries choose to take the 4% tax rate increase. The information below reflects the 2003 tax rates chosen by 107 county taxing districts reporting:

Libraries choosing the 4% rate:	51% of those reporting
Libraries choosing to exceed the 4% rate:	3% of those reporting
Libraries choosing the compensating rate:	46% of those reporting
Libraries choosing the prior year tax rate:	0% of those reporting

According to Kentucky Revised Statutes, "compensating tax rate" is the rate which, rounded to the next higher one tenth of one cent (\$0.001) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed value and applied to the current year's assessment of the property subject to taxation by a taxing district, excluding new property and personal property, produces an amount of revenue approximately equal to that produced in the preceding year from real property. However, in no event shall the compensating tax rate be a rate which, when applied to the total current year assessment of all classes of taxable property, produces an amount of revenue less than was produced in the preceding year from all classes of taxable property. For purposes of this subsection, "property subject to taxation" means the total fair cash value of all property subject to full local rates, less the total valuation exempted from taxation by the homestead exemption provision of the Constitution and the difference between the fair cash value and agricultural or horticultural value of agricultural or horticultural land.

The "4%" tax rate would be that rate when applied against the real property assessment would produce revenue up to a 4% over the previous year's revenue. This does not count new property or new revenue realized from annexation or incorporation, property transferred from a tax-exempt entity to a non tax-exempt entity, or the value of improvements to nonresidential property. Also not counted in the 4% increase is property exempt from taxation (as an inducement for industrial or business use) at the expiration of the exempt status.

## **‘Cross the Commonwealth**

The **Adair County Public Library** held “Ghost Stories Around the Campfire” on October 30. Young trick or treaters listened to ghost stories inside the library around electric campfires. Over 100 were in attendance.

The **Ballard/Carlisle/Livingston County Public Library** bookmobile has recently had its exterior custom painted. It is colorfully decorated with books and a road that winds around the exterior of the bookmobile.

The **McCracken County Public Library** celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. The celebration began on Saturday, October 2, with an Open House featuring music, programs, special guests, and a silent auction for historical and bestsellers 1<sup>st</sup> editions from 1904. The Friends of the Library sponsored a mural on the Paducah Flood Wall. The mural depicts a snow-covered image of the Carnegie Public Library which was built in 1904. A ceremony to unveil and dedicate the mural was held on Saturday, October 30.



Caldwell County's **George Coon Public Library** has received a \$200,000.00 donation from a local resident. The donation will be used to renovate an adjacent building to be their new Genealogy Library.

The **Hickman County Memorial Library** received a \$2000.00 donation from a local church.

The **Fulton County Public Library** has received a \$1000.00 donation from their local Wal-Mart.

**Marshall County Public Library** now has wireless internet access. The newest feature at Marshall County is “Learn-A-Test”. Patrons can log onto the library's web page and use their library card's barcode to access this program.

Public libraries concluded the golden anniversary celebration of bookmobile services across Kentucky. The host libraries were **George Coon Public Library, Bowling Green Public Library, Pulaski County Public Library, Hardin County Public Library, Rowan County Public Library, Grant County Public Library and Perry County Public Library.**

Featured speakers included Ellen Hellard, retired KDLA Field Services Director, and local bookmobile alumni. All current and past bookmobile & outreach services staff were recognized.

*Ellen Hellard pins Beverly Terry, one of the members of the Logan County Public Library staff.*



## **LSTA Grants Awarded for 2004 – 2005**

### **Library Automation** 241,280.00

The following libraries will purchase an integrated library automation system; conduct retrospective conversion of the library collection; and other much needed library functions.

Adair County 25,595.00

Edmonson County 25,200.00

Union County 36,562.00

Webster County 29,561.00

Whitley County 19,375.00

Wolfe County 28,983.00

Boyle County 39,806.00

Migrate from the current text-based automation system to a new Windows based system allowing the library to participate in resource sharing.

Bullitt County 6,300.00

Purchase computers and provide an upgrade of all circulation workstations, making them compliant with the current automation server software.

Fulton County 13,675.00

Purchase an integrated library automation system to migrate from the current orphaned DOS based automation system to a Windows based system allowing the library to participate in resource sharing.

Trimble County 4,728.00

Purchase computers and install automated system software; plus conduct retrospective conversion of the library collection and other much needed library functions.

Washington County 2,820.00

Purchase computers for quick access to the Public Access Catalog while providing public and staff work stations for quick and for long-term research.

### **Technology Innovation** 109,928.00

Fleming County 18,781.00

Install a satellite Internet system to the bookmobile and add stabilizers to eliminate interruption in Internet service due to the movement of the bookmobile.

Daviess County 8,675.00

Promote public access computing, enhance patron self-sufficiency and user privacy by providing unmediated access allowing patrons to access computer resources and reserve computer time.

Grayson County 13,000.00

Digitize local history materials and provide online access to the collection.

Johnson County 17,100.00

Provide wireless computer networking technology including laptop computers for direct access to information resources and training for businesses, educational institutions and the community.

Kenton County 4,681.00

Provide wireless Internet access at the library for patrons with laptops and PDA devices. Equipment will be purchased to allow staff to provide roving reference, bibliographic instruction, and readers' advisory services throughout the library.

Madison County 19,997.00

Equipment and software will be purchased to provide the public with 24 hour online access to the library database. A part time networking specialist will be hired to install and oversee the project.

Marion County 8,597.00

Provide genealogy room patrons with a workstation, printer software, boards, cables, and framing kit. Equipment will allow access to enhanced images and articles. Genealogical reference resources will be purchased.

Mt Sterling-Montgomery County 14,000.00

Purchase laptop computers with wireless technology and make them available to library patrons for in-house use. Computers will have printing capabilities with access to the library card catalog.

Rowan County 8,272.00

Upgrade technology capabilities in the library by wiring the community room and by purchasing needed equipment. Upgrade will allow the library and the community to hold computer training and other workshops as needed.

Wolfe County 5,500.00

Provide wireless access by integrating internet capabilities into the existing system. A wireless router, printer, print server, notebook adapter, laptops with wireless internet capabilities and packaged software will be purchased.

**Training Equipment/Data Project 43,099.00**

The following libraries received non-competitive grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000:

Clay County	Green County	Menifee County
Edmonson County	Hopkins Co/Madisonville	Muhlenberg/Harbin Memorial
Grayson County	Marshall County	Oldham County

Grant recipients for School and Public Library Partnership, Early Childhood and Library Programming will be listed in the January/February 2005 issue of the Kentucky Public Library Newsletter.

## 2005 Advocacy Institute

Strengthen your local library advocacy activities by registering today for the 2005 Advocacy Institute on Jan. 14 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Online registration at [www.ala.org/midwinter](http://www.ala.org/midwinter) is available until Dec. 31, 2004.

## On the E-rate...

The Schools and Libraries Committee of the USAC Board of Directors has approved a 66-day filing window for Funding Year 2005 (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). The window will open at noon (EST) on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 and close at 11:59 pm (EST) on Thursday, February 17, 2005. Pursuant to the FCC's Third Report and Order (FCC 03-323), which adopted a more formal process for updating the Eligible Services List, the opening of the filing window must occur 60 days after release of the Commission public notice announcing the final list. The list was issued by the Commission on October 14, which means that the window opening date may be no earlier than December 13. Accordingly, the window opening will be delayed from the traditional early November opening. Remember, 28 days must elapse between the filing of your 470 and the filing of the 471. The window close date has been moved later in time to ensure an adequate filing window.

## American Library Association Grants

The mission of the ALA Public Programs Office is to foster cultural programming as an integral part of library service in all types of libraries. The unit provides leadership, resources, training, and networking opportunities that help thousands of librarians nationwide develop and host cultural opportunities for adults, young adults, and families. Descriptions and deadlines for currently available grants:

### *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America*

ALA, the New-York Historical Society, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History are now accepting applications from public, academic, and special libraries, as well as National Park historic sites, wishing to host this new traveling exhibition. **Receipt Deadline: January 21, 2005.** <http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/alexanderhamiltonthemanwhomademodernamerica/alexanderhamilton.htm>

### *The World War I Years: America Becomes a World Power*

ALA and National Video Resources are now accepting applications from libraries of all types interested in hosting this new film discussion series that examines the American experience in the Great War. **Receipt Deadline: January 31, 2005.** <http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/theworldwariyearsamericabecomesaworldpower/www1.htm>

### *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature - Identity & Imagination*

ALA and Nextbook, a gateway to Jewish literature, culture and ideas, present a new Let's Talk About It series featuring four new themes exploring Jewish literature and culture. Public and academic libraries are invited to apply. **Deadline: April 1, 2005** <http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/letstalkaboutit/letstalkaboutit.htm>

### *We the People Bookshelf on "Freedom"*

ALA and the National Endowment for the Humanities present the We the People Bookshelf, a grant program to encourage young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history. Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply to be among the 1,000 libraries selected to receive the second We the People Bookshelf, which focuses on the theme of "freedom." **Deadline: February 16, 2005. Applications will be available December 16.** <http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/wethepeople/wepeople.htm>

## KDLA Announces 2005 Summer Reading Theme

“Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds” is Kentucky’s summer reading theme for 2005. The complementary teen theme will be “Joust Read.” Regional consultants are delivering manuals for both themes to libraries, allowing librarians their earliest start ever on summer planning. KDLA will also provide copies of two posters as well as bookmarks for each child who participates in summer reading. Librarians are encouraged to attend summer reading preparation workshops in Frankfort on February 23, 24, or 25. In addition to receiving program support materials, at the workshops they will find exhibits, training, and opportunities to share ideas with their colleagues from across the state. Workshop registration information will be mailed to all libraries in December.

## Cataloging Tips

At KDLA we receive the Cataloging Service Bulletin that is published quarterly by the Library of Congress. In each issue there is a list of Subject Headings of Current Interest. The following headings appear in our latest issue: Brain fingerprinting (May Subd Geog), Educational Web sites (May Subd Geog), Fairy godmothers (May Subd Geog), Parties for dogs (May Subd Geog), Teenagers – Sleep (May Subd Geog), and Ugly contests (May Subd Geog).

## Planning for Events Ahead

### February

- 18-19 McConnell Conference, Lexington
- 23-25 Summer Reading Workshops Frankfort

### March

- 7-11 Basic Network Administrators’ Boot Camp, Hopkinsville
- 21 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Lexington
- 22 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics , London
- 23 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Bowling Green
- 24 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Bowling Green
- 25 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Paducah

### April

- 4 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Lexington
- 5 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, London
- 6 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Bowling Green
- 7 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Bowling Green
- 8 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Paducah
- 13-15 KPLA-KLTA, Bowling Green
- 18 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Lexington
- 19 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Lexington
- 20 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, London
- 21 WorldCat Resource Sharing: The Basics, Bowling Green
- 22 WorldCat Resource Sharing: Beyond the Basics, Bowling Green

***Kentucky Public Library Newsletter*** is published bi-monthly by Field Services Division of Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and your regional librarian. Correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Marjorie Flowers, Green River/Pennyrile Regional Office, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301. Phone 270.687.7316; Fax 270.687.7351; e-mail: [marjorie.flowers@ky.gov](mailto:marjorie.flowers@ky.gov).

**Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

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An agency of the Education Cabinet

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